

Rainier Beach – Phase 3 Meeting Comments

October 27, 2011 -- Themed November 16, 2011

General Meeting Station Comments

1. STATION

More buses

- No bus from 51st to Airport Way and Renton
- #107 more frequent, #106 more often, #7 extension more often
- Bus #106 & #8: better connect time to rides from station to Rainier Beach
- #107 more frequent!
- More East-West buses.
- Some kind of circulator - - quick on, quick off to feed light rail. The San Francisco cable car on rubber tires. Seward & Henderson on to MLK and Henderson.
- More transit, less parking

More parking

- Long-term free parking
- Possibly temporary parking in unused lots until development
- No parking in empty lots, may stop development
- SDOT should have provided Park & Ride site(s) close to RB station
- Free street parking , more street and business parking
- Kenyon St and Rainier small shops need more parking

Land uses / density

- Have day care option near light rail
- Combine 1 & 2 west side MLK south of Henderson to allow realistic height - bldg /comm'l ↓, apt. ↑
- Consider incentives to encourage mixed use development, specifically projects which include affordable housing and retail space for new small business
- More density!!

Improvements to increase safety

- Lights on Chief Sealth trail
- Street bumper speed limit between Oromo Community Center and Oromo Cultural Center
- Safety/security, safety/security, safety/security, please
- Safety improvements along Renton Ave S from Henderson to Roxbury
- Lighting, wide sidewalks, shrubs/overgrown trees maintained
- Emergency response on Rainier Avenue

2. LINKAGES

Transit / Parking

- Move bus layover to different site of/off S. Henderson away from MLK Jr. Way.
 - This will leave allowable parking (free) on S. Henderson.
 - Move to safer section – near commuters/lots of transit

- Electric trolley, support traffic calming
- Parking removed!!
- No Park & Ride site!!
- S. Henderson parking mainly 2-hour limit
- Renton Ave S south of Link station -- installation of RB bike lane displaced commuter parking to W/S of Renton stretching far to the South. Greater distance now to walk to link station

Kubota Garden

- Re-open and improve Sturtevant to link commercial core with Kubota Gardens while adding new entrance to Kubota on Renton Ave where the two houses were bought by Parks
- Kubota Gardens s/b listed as recreation
- Link Kubota via sidewalks in front of it on 55th down Renton Ave to Henderson as a walking corridor. Wide sidewalks.
- Link back (East) entrance to Kubota Gardens with Chief Sealth trail. (Entrance is now locked but could be opened/improved).

Improvements to increase safety

- Lighting on Chief Sealth Trail from station up into neighborhoods (Carrie Dolwick), cdolwick@gmail.com
- Poor lighting →street, pedestrians
- Need better lighting (pedestrian street lights) on S Henderson between Rainier and link station
- Light features at Link
- Linkages: Purpose is to encourage street usage
- Renton Ave s/o S Henderson:
 - Cracked sidewalk, encroaching vegetation, poor street lighting
 - Safety and community policing issues should take priority over improving physical linkages
 - The physical linkage is adequate as is. No one uses it because they fear being mugged

Other

- Before installing Fisher Pl. CW, bring land up to grade of adjacent properties. Otherwise, area will remain unappealing for pedestrians. Consider enlisting developer or City buying properties.
- Rainier Beach signage to draw folks into our neighborhood
- Henderson Corridor
 - Park entrance – very poor visibility!
 - Overgrown plants, poor maintenance (unlike other parks in North Seattle neighborhood)
- Need more public school administration accountability
- Mas responsibilidad de parte de los superintendentes escolares
- Affordable family housing
- Outreach to private land owners
- Zone/encourage food trucks – i.e. current BBQ business there
 - #2 in Safeway lot
- Pritchard Beach Trail
- Rainier Ave Gateway (“historic district”)
 - Wants to be kept informed – sallyli@u.washington.edu

3. HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT

Image / Identity / Uses

- Regarding strategies: “Walkable Business District” and “Build on RB Positive Image”: Involve and educate local merchants/commercial property owners on the importance of a visually appealing property to a vibrant and attractive “downtown”. Cases in point – former gas stations at Henderson/Renton Ave, Rainier Ave/57th and Renton Ave/51st intersection. Apparently, viable businesses that serve the community and provide jobs, but huge eyesores that make RB look trashy. What other examples do you see in RB?
- Can “outdoor café and views” also be a public promenade with multiple small vendors rather than a large, potentially costly establishment?
- Energy support
- healthcare
- Child care for single women!
- Establish 57th Ave S as a destination restaurant /café corridor – more restaurants like Café Vignole, less fast food.
- Incentivize restaurants to locate there; establish buying program with local restaurants and Rainier Beach Urban Farm!
- Retengan la Variedad de Mercaderes Latinos.
- Create more jobs, specifically in Beach community.
- Create job training for people with limited English.
- Develop historic interpretive material - - self-guided walking tours, signage, etc. Consider applying for historic business district designation, leverage tax incentives to restore storefronts and attract appropriate businesses!

Sidewalks, streets, safety

- Renton Ave S, south of S Henderson: cracked sidewalk; encroaching vegetation; poor street lighting;
- Walkable sidewalks: wide overhangs to protect from rain, benches, business have chairs/tables outside, bike lock-ups, well lit at night, potted plants.
- Re-direct Waters Street to directly connect with Seward Park Blvd. at one intersection
- Also, open vacated street ends leading to lake.
- safety & community policing issues should take priority over improving physical linkages
- The physical linkage is adequate as is. No one uses it because they fear being mugged

4. ROSE ST.

Uses

- Tienda Mexicana de Fruta/Peces/Vegetables
- *Trader Joe's
- Job (Latinos) training for ESC/citizenship
- Computer training
- ESL/A.B.E. Latino youth tutoring services
- Multicultural low income housing

- Declare victory, and invest elsewhere now. I think what has been done on Rainier (traffic, curbs, etc.) is great. Now improve Wabash from Rose to Cloverdale Place. Curbs and drainage. Up-zone for market rate multi-family density.
- Housing/childcare
- Provide meditation- - stress relief

Image / Safety

- Beautification efforts in this corridor/area are extremely important! representative.
- “Adopt-A-Street”
- Neighborhood security/bus stop (safety)

5. BEACH SQUARE

Built Form

- Develop overlays (zoning or code) to encourage or require building massing at the street edge of Rainier.
- Encourage mixed-use development, eventually, at key sites – Safeway, Saars, Rite Aid, with vibrant commercial space and higher density residential.
- If we have higher income and dense, multifamily at market rate, then the retail investment and re-development will follow. The answer is not subsidy and grants to current businesses. The solution is to keep the subsidized housing we have, and add lots more households at market rate.
 - Raise density,
 - raise heights,
 - no mixed use
 - residential MF

Uses

- Re-develop Lake Washington Apts. to mixed use development with housing, retail, and entertainment.
- Please add a dog park.
- Mexican grocery store
- Apoyar Negociantes minoritarios con entrenamientos y prestamoe a 1% de interes.
- Poner una clinica de salud SeaMar.
- Support immigrants’ businesses to recruit new small business
- Ethiopian grocery store
- Boost diverse sports leagues – i.e. cricket, soccer, martial arts – that appeal to cultures represented here. For health and family bonding.

Sidewalks / Safety

- Safety issues – bus stop, street lighting
- Pavements – restoration; continue South to Cloverdale
- Empty lots – property owner should be required/reminded to cut vegetation for safety issues